II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

The Metropolitan School District of Washington Township (MSDWT) is an urban school district serving over 10,224 ethnically and economically diverse students, ages pre-school to 12th grade. MSDWT's community of 90,000 residents has had a marked increase in poverty (40-75% free/reduced lunch) and a shift in racial balance (i.e., 62% minority non-white population now exceeds the once majority Caucasian population). In addition, there is a growing number of immigrant students (13% English Language Learners-ELL) and 16% of students with Special Needs. Within this population, we see a significant drop in ISTEP+ performance in the area of core math/algebra between the 6-9 grade years and there are significant achievement gaps in subgroup populations. In all three middle schools, and the high school, the need to improve mathematics is a dominant goal in their school improvement plans.

Through the use of these grant monies, MSDWT would be able to deploy Promethean ActivClassroom into the middle and high school mathematics classrooms to enhance core mathematic instruction and increase student engagement. Marzano's research on the impact of integrating Promethean ActivClassroom into instruction showed a 17-percentile point gain (Marzano, 2009). The ActivClassroom provides an interactive whiteboard, content area lesson plan support, and support for response units to track student progress. Four key practices have been shown to have impact on student performance (Swanson, H.L. & Deshler, D., 2003), all of which are achievable through the implementation of Promethean ActivClassroom. **Explicit Modeling using multi-sensory methods:** the Activboard integrates visual, kinesthetic (movement), auditory and tactile (touch) "input" processes that provide teachers engaging ways to create multi-sensory models of concepts and skills in different content areas. **Situated learning objectives in relevant and authentic contexts:** Teachers can demonstrate target concepts and skills within contexts that are relevant to the students by using the many graphic and digital resources available with Promethean Planet. **Providing students with multiple opportunities to respond:** Students can respond to teacher prompts at their seats using Learner Response System devices or by manipulating graphics, text and images while classmates observe. Either way, teachers can explicitly make a connection between student responses and the target content, providing corrective feedback and positive reinforcement. **Using performance data to monitor student progress:** Promethean's Learner Response System allows teachers to make instructional decisions "at-the-moment". This performance data provides teachers and students with a concrete process for analyzing responses and providing corrective feedback, positive reinforcement and for setting goals for learning. The implementation of the Promethean ActivClassroom will allow us to adjust instructional practices to better meet the needs of all learners; especially our at-risk and special needs children.

This grant would be used to provide professional development opportunities for teachers to effectively integrate this technology into the curriculum to maximize impact on student learning. These opportunities would be geared such that a "train-the-trainer" environment would be created and therefore allow other educational professionals to learn and implement these same strategies in their respective classrooms.